

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2002**

**FROM:**           **PETER HILLS**, Fire Chief/Fire Warden  
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

**SUBJECT:**       **CONDUCT A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION FOR COUNTY SERVICE AREA 70,  
IMPROVEMENT ZONE M (WONDER VALLEY) FOR INCREASED FIRE SERVICE**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Acting as governing body of County Service Area 70, Improvement Zone M (Wonder Valley):

1. Conduct a public hearing to consider a special tax of \$30 per parcel of land with an annual 1.5% cost of living increase for a fire service level increase.
2. Authorize the Special Districts Department to conduct a special tax election and mailed ballot proceeding.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** CSA 70, M (Wonder Valley) provides fire protection services to the community of Wonder Valley, and operates one fire station, which is staffed with paid-call fire fighters. There is community interest in increasing the fire service level by operating the fire station on a 24-hour-a-day basis with two extra-help fire fighters on location. Additional revenue is necessary to support the increase in fire service level and in accordance with California Government Code Section 25210.6a, a special tax is an available revenue option. Support for a special tax, subject to Board approval, requires two-thirds (2/3) of the registered voters within the district boundaries who return their ballots and vote in favor of the tax.

A survey was mailed to the registered voters in this area to determine if they were in favor of the special tax. A public meeting was held in Wonder Valley to explain the special tax and respond to any questions or concerns by the public. The survey results indicated that of the 408 registered voters in the area, 179 voters responded to the survey. Of those who responded, 133 voters were in favor of the special tax and 46 voters were opposed. Therefore, 74% of the voters who responded were in favor of the tax.

On October 22, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved the action to conduct a public hearing on November 5, 2002 to call for a special tax election for County Service Area 70, Improvement Zone M for increased fire service. The public hearing has been advertised in accordance with legal requirements.

With the approval of this item, a ballot will be sent to each registered voter within the boundaries of the district. If two-thirds (2/3) of the registered voters respond in favor of the special tax, County Fire will request the Board of Supervisors to approve the special tax of \$30 per parcel to be added to the 2003-2004 tax roll with an annual 1.5% cost of living increase each year thereafter. The ballots must be received by December 20, 2002. The results will be compiled by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, with assistance from the Registrar of Voters.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This action has been reviewed by County Counsel (L. Thomas Krahelski) on October 28, 2002, Registrar of Voters (Sharon Beringson, Interim Registrar of Voters) on October 29, 2002, Clerk of the Board (Renee' Bastian) on October 29, 2002 and reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst) on October 25, 2002.

**Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors**

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** If the mailed ballot proceeding is successful, the additional funding (\$118,300 generated by the 3,946 contributing parcels) will be added to the CSA 70, Zone M budget for fiscal year 2003-2004. County Fire has paid for the survey and will incur all administration costs, including mailed ballot and overhead costs, from the FY 2002-2003 budget.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** First

**PRESENTER:** PETER HILLS 387-5952